

REMARKS

Claims 2-9, 11-18, and 21-41 are pending in the application.

The Examiner allows claims 2-9, 11, 17, 18, 21-24, 31 and 35-41 and objects to claims 27 and 28.

The Examiner rejects claim 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The Examiner rejects claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the acknowledged prior art of Figure 2 ("APA").

The Examiner rejects claims 15, 16, 29, and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by Klein, U.S. Patent No. 6,349,051, ("Klein").

The Examiner rejects claims 12-14, 25, 26, and 32-34 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Klein in view of the acknowledged prior art of Figure 2.

The Applicants amend claims 27 and 32, and cancel claims 12-16, 25-26, and 29-30.

Claims 2-9, 11, 17-18, and 21-24, 27-28, 31-41 remain in the application.

The Applicants add no new matter and request reconsideration.

Claims Allowed

Applicants thank Examiner Dang for the allowance of claims 2-9, 11, 17, 18, 21-24, 31, and 35-41.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 27 and 28 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicants have elected to rewrite claim 27 into independent form to place claims 27, 28, and 32-34 in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102, §103 and §112

The Examiner rejects 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, claim 15, 16, 29, and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), and claims 12-14, 25, 26, and 32-34 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). The Applicants obviates the Examiner's rejections by canceling claims 12-16, 25-26, and 29-30, and amending claim 32 to depend from allowable claim 27.

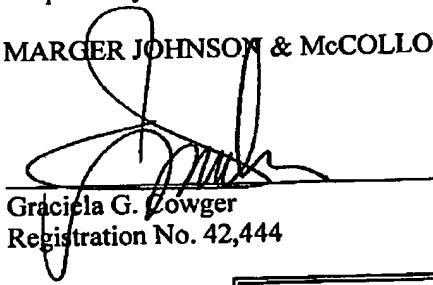
CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of all claims as amended. The Applicants encourage the Examiner to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

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Respectfully submitted,

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